GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:196
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WORLD BANK LOAN FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMMES
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank have recently approved loan to India to support poverty alleviation programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the loan is likely to be utilised?

Answer

MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)

(a) & (b) Poverty alleviation is one of the primary objectives of all World Bank assistance to India. In the last one year, however, specific projects which seek to directly attack poverty have been taken up. These are the District Poverty Initiatives Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. These projects seek to improve opportunities for the rural poor to meet priority social and economic needs through community driven participatory approaches and demand based investment decisions. The total assistance for these projects amounts to USD 321.6 million (equivalent to approx. Rs. 1500 crores).

(c) The loan will be utilised for social, economic and infrastructural activities including group based income generating activities, small infrastructure investments, including access to public services and improving skills and organisation. The projects also have a human resource development component under which capacity building of community based Common Interest Groups and other local institutions would be taken up.